

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
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R 011100Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6824
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
CINCUSNAVEUR
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C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT LOUIS 0707

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP PGOV PINT PINS EFIN ELAB MP SE UR
SUBJECT: MAURITIUS WEEKLY REVIEW - JULY 1 (SUMMARY)

REF: PORT LOUIS 677

1. ON JUNE 24 MAURITIUS FORMALLY RECOGNIZED THE RENE GOVERNMENT
IN THE SEYCHELLES. BUT IN A MESSAGE TO RENE, PRIME MINISTER
RAMGOOLAM EXPRESSED HIS DISAPPROVAL OF THE UNDEMOCRATIC MEANS
BY WHICH RENE TOOK POWER, AND HOPED THAT "MODERATION AND SOCIAL
JUSTICE" WOULD PREVAIL IN THE SEYCHELLES.

2. AT A PRESS CONFERENCE THREE DAYS LATER RAM DEVOTED MUCH OF
THE TIME TO EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER RECENT EVENTS IN THE
SEYCHELLES, CALLING THE RENE REGIME A DICTATORSHIP, AND
POINTING OUT BY CONTRAST THE DEMOCRATIC FREEDOMS WHICH EXIST
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IN MAURITIUS UNDER HIS LEADERSHIP. HE DEPLORED BERENGER'S
BOLD STATEMENT THAT THE MAURITIAN MILITANT MOVEMENT (MMM)
WOULD BE IN POWER BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR, AND COMMENTED
THAT HE WAS BEGINNING TO HAVE DOUBTS ABOUT CONVERTING MAURITIUS
INTO A REPUBLIC.

3. MMM PRESIDENT JUGNAUTH MADE A NUMBER OF STATEMENTS IN THE

PRESS THIS WEEK WHICH ATTEMPTED TO ALLAY THE PUBLIC'S FEARS CONCERNING MMM POLICIES AND INTENTIONS. HE INSISTED THAT HIS PARTY WISHED TO TAKE POWER ONLY THROUGH DEMOCRATIC, ELECTORAL MEANS. HE DEPLORED ALL COUPS D'ETAT AND SAID THAT HE WOULD NOT FOLLOW ANYONE ALONG SUCH A PATH IN MAURITIUS. IN AN APPARENT ATTEMPT TO PLACE SOME DISTANCE BETWEEN HIMSELF AND THE MMM'S SECRETARY GENERAL, BERENGER, JUGNAUTH TOOK ISSUE WITH BERENGER'S STATEMENT ABOUT THE PARTY'S TAKING POWER THIS YEAR, AND EVEN WENT SO FAR AS TO DECLARE THAT THE MMM IS NOT AGAINST THE MONARCHY.

4. UPON BERENGER'S RETURN FROM HIS THREE WEEK TOUR OF SEVERAL NATIONS (REFTEL), HE ALSO ATTEMPTED TO CLARIFY HIS EARLIER STATEMENTS BY SAYING THAT HE IS AGAINST THE USE OF ARMS TO OBTAIN POWER, AND THAT ELECTIONS ARE THE ROUTE TO POWER IN MAURITIUS. STILL, HE PREDICTED, ELECTIONS WOULD BE HELD BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR IN THE WAKE OF THE REFERENDUM IN A REPUBLIC.

5. GAETAN DUVAL, LEADER OF THE MAURITIAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY PMSD), RETURNED FROM HIS INTERNATIONAL TOUR AND SAID THAT IF SOMEONE TRIED TO STAGE A COUP IN MAURITIUS, CIVIL WAR WOULD RESULT. HIS STATEMENTS ON POLITICS, HOWEVER, WERE OVERSHADOWED BY THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF HIS ENGAGEMENT TO A WEALTHY INDIAN PRINCESS' 18 YEAR OLD NIECE.
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6. BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FOR THE OAU CONFERENCE IN LIBREVILLE, RAMGOOLAM SENT A WARM MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS TO BREZHNEV ON HIS ELEVATION TO THE PRESIDENCY OF THE USSR, EXPRESSING HIS HOPES FOR "BETTER PROSPECTS FOR THE INDIAN OCEAN TO BECOME A ZONE OF PEACE."

7. CONSUMER PRICES REGISTERED ANOTHER SHARP INCREASE OF 1.6 PER CENT FROM APRIL TO MAY, SETTING OFF DEMANDS BY THE NATIONAL TRADE UNION FRONT FOR A 22 PERCENT INCREASE IN WAGES.
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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 01-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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